AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Before paragraph **[0001]**, add the heading --BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

Amend paragraph **[0001]** as follows:

[0001] --The invention relates to a stent ~~according to the features recited in the preamble of claim 1~~.--.

Before paragraph **[0008]**, add the heading --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Delete paragraph **[0009]**.

Amend the following paragraphs:

[0010] -- ~~The stent according~~ According to the invention, a stent has a tubular support frame which can be widened from an initial state to a supporting state. The support frame includes ring segments sequentially arranged along the longitudinal axis of the stent, with the ring segments formed of an endless sequence of segment struts arranged in the circumferential direction of the support frame. Adjoining ring segments are coupled by tie bars. According to a core feature of the invention, the segment struts are curved in a wave-like manner, with the width of the segment struts, as measured perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the struts, increasing from midsection in direction of the transitions. The width of the segment struts measured in the circumferential direction of the support frame remains constant along the length of the segment struts. Accordingly, the segment struts are narrower in midsection than at their respective ends, as measured in the perpendicular direction, so that stress is distributed over the entire length of a segment strut, and the stress is reduced at the ends as a consequence of the larger cut-out width. This reduces the risk of

fracture in the particularly critical regions at the ends of the segment struts and thus significantly increases the service life of a stent.--.

[0019] --According to ~~the features recited in claim 2~~ another feature of the present invention, first and second tie bars are provided. Each tie bar has an arm extending in the circumferential direction of the support frame, with both sides of the arm being connected via axial sections to a transition. This configuration of the tie bars contributes to the stability of a stent in the longitudinal direction.--.

[0021] --Advantageously, the axial sections of the first tie bars are also curved in a wave-like manner[[, as recited in claim 3]]. The width of the axial sections, as measured perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the axial sections, increases from the arms toward the transitions--.

[0023] -- According to ~~the features recited in claim 4~~ another feature of the present invention, the arms of the tie bars extending in the circumferential direction are arranged in the space between two axially spaced apart adjacent ring segments.--.

[0024] -- According to ~~the features recited in claim 5~~ another feature of the present invention, each of the first tie bars extends from the bottom of two interconnected segment struts of a ring segment to a bottom of two interconnected segment struts of an adjacent ring segment [[(claim 6)]].--.

[0026] -- According to ~~the features recited in claim 7~~ another feature of the present invention, the first tie bars of a ring segment and the second tie bars of the adjacent ring segment are disposed in offset relationship in the circumferential direction.--.

[0027] -- According to ~~the features recited in claim 8~~ another feature of the present invention, a measure which improves the application of the inventive stent provides that the end face of each third transition includes a widened head end disposed on the terminal ring segments, as viewed along the longitudinal stent axis, with the widened head end protruding axially beyond the adjacent transitions.

Before paragraph **[0030]**, add the heading --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING--.

Before paragraph **[0037]**, add the heading --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.

Amend the following paragraphs as follows:

[0041] -- The axial sections 12, 13 of the first tie bars 9 have a wave-like curvature which conforms to the contour of the segment struts [[8]] 6, 7. The width B_v of the axial sections 12 and 13, as measured perpendicular to the longitudinal axis L_v of the axial sections 12 and 13, increases from the arm 11 toward the transitions 8.--.

[0048] -- Fig. 6 shows the width B_v of a tie bar 9 and of an axial section 12, 13, respectively, as a function of the wave radius R_w. The ratio of a wave radius R_w to width B_v of the tie bars increases linearly. The ratio of the wave radius R_w to width B_v of a tie bar increases from the center toward the transitions 8 from 12:1 to 20:1.--.

Pages 11, 12, delete completely.

Page 13, after the heading "CLAIMS" and before the first claim add --What is claimed is:--.